

SAFETY FOR CONTRACTORS

Arizona Blue Stake Laws

Know the Arizona Blue Stake Laws when you dig

Arizona Blue Stake laws require all entities to notify the Arizona Blue Stake center two working days prior to opening an excavation or otherwise digging so that all underground public utilities can be properly located and marked. Do not wait until work is underway. Call well in advance to obtain the information you need to do the job safely. In the Phoenix area, call the Blue Stake Center at 602-263-1100. In other areas call 1-800-STAKE-IT. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Never dig closer than two feet from pad-mounted utility equipment or power poles. Doing so will endanger your life.
2. Dig carefully by hand in the area immediately surrounding buried cables. Some cables may be located in conduit, and some may simply be directly buried.
3. Arizona Blue Stake laws require that the exact location of buried facilities must be determined by exposing them with hand tools in a careful and prudent manner when the excavation is less than or equal to 24 inches from a marked underground facility and the uncovered facility must be supported and protected prior to and during excavation.
4. Do not touch conductors and never use conduit or exposed cables as a step or as a means of crossing a trench.
5. Do not leave cables exposed and do not leave any unsafe conditions unguarded.
6. Make sure all underground equipment is properly protected during all excavation work.
7. If the underground cable is cut, nicked or strained in any way, call APS immediately. Damage is not always obvious and repairs may sometimes be made to avoid the cost of removing and replacing damaged equipment.

The overhead and underground separation from power lines requirements are law. Additionally, it's the law to call Arizona Blue Stake at 811 two working days before you dig! Arizona Revised Statutes allow the Arizona Corporation Commission to assess civil penalties up to \$5,000 per violation to persons or businesses that do not comply. Additionally, criminal damages can be pursued by APS for illegally tampering with or damaging its property or facilities.

The sources for the regulatory requirements listed above may be found in Federal and State OSHA standards and Arizona Revised Statutes.